

REPLACEMENT SECTION

1. (previously presented) A method for providing improved print quality regardless of media smoothness, comprising:
 - ascertaining information regarding the smoothness of media; and
 - utilizing the information about the media smoothness in the generation of an output, wherein utilizing includes using a halftoning screen related to the information about the media smoothness.
2. (canceled)
3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining further comprises identifying a smoothness level for the media.
4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the identifying further comprises manually providing the smoothness level to a print device.
5. (canceled)
6. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the print device is a printer.
7. (original) The method of claim 4 wherein the print device is a digital copier.
8. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein the identifying further comprises projecting light on media to be printed on, gathering reflected light from the media, generating a signal indicating a smoothness level for the media and processing the signal indicating the smoothness level for the media to quantify the media smoothness.
9. (canceled)

10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the ascertaining further comprises storing information with a print job, wherein the information comprises a smoothness parameter associated with the print job.

11. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising communicating to a host when media having a smoothness required according to the information is not available in the print device.

12. (original) The method of claim 11 further comprising issuing an alert indicating that media having smoothness required according to the information is unavailable.

13. (previously presented) A print device, comprising:
a marker system for rendering a page layout on a medium; and
a smoothness processing system, coupled to the marker system, the smoothness processing system ascertaining information regarding the smoothness of media and controlling the marker system in response to the ascertained information about the media smoothness, the smoothness processing system comprising:

a user input interface for manually entering a media smoothness indicator.

14. (canceled)

15. (original) The print device of claim 14 wherein the smoothness processing system further comprises a processor, the processor receiving the media smoothness indicator and selecting a halftoning screen according to the media smoothness indicator.

16. (original) The print device of claim 15 wherein the selected halftoning screen controls the marker system to provide an optimal print quality for the page layout on the medium.

17. (original) The print device of claim 13 wherein the smoothness processing system further comprises: a light source for projecting light onto a medium; a light converter for gathering light reflected off of the medium in proportion to the smoothness of the medium and in response generating a signal proportional to the smoothness of the medium; and a processor, coupled to the light converter, for processing the signal proportional to the smoothness of the medium to generate a control signal and selecting a halftoning screen according to the media smoothness indicated by the control signal.

18. (original) The print device of claim 17 wherein the light converter comprises a fresnel lens and a charge coupled device.

19. (original) The print device of claim 13 wherein the marker further includes a finisher, the finisher using the information regarding the smoothness of media to apply an appropriate halftoning screen for use with the media having the indicated smoothness.

20. (original) The print device of claim 13 wherein the smoothness processing system receives information regarding the smoothness of the media that is associated with and stored with a print job.

21. (original) The print device of claim 13 further comprising a bi-directional print stream, the print device communicating to a host through the bi-directional print stream when media having a smoothness required according to the information is not available in the print device.

22. (original) The print device of claim 13 further comprising issuing an alert for indicating that media having smoothness required according to the information is unavailable.

23. (previously presented) An article of manufacture comprising a program storage medium readable by a computer, the medium tangibly embodying one or more programs of instructions executable by the computer to perform a method for providing improved print quality regardless of media smoothness, the method comprising: ascertaining information regarding the smoothness of media; and utilizing the information about the media smoothness in the generation of an output, wherein utilizing the information includes using a halftoning screen related to the information about the media smoothness.

24. (canceled)

25. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the ascertaining further comprises identifying a smoothness level for the media.

26. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 25 wherein the identifying further comprises manually providing the smoothness level to a print device.

27. (canceled)

28. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 25 wherein the identifying further comprises projecting light on media to be printed on, gathering reflected light from the media, generating a signal indicating a smoothness level for the media and processing the signal indicating the smoothness level for the media to quantify the media smoothness.

29. (canceled)

30. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 23 wherein the ascertaining further comprises storing information with a print job, wherein the information comprises a smoothness parameter associated with the print job.

31. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 23 further comprising communicating to a host when media having a smoothness required according to the information is not available in the print device.

32. (original) The article of manufacture of claim 31 further comprising issuing an alert indicating that media having smoothness required according to the information is unavailable.

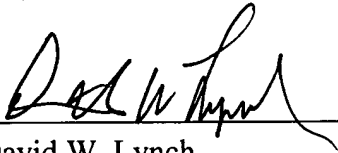
Claim text for claims 2, 5, 9, 14, 24, 27 and 29 has now been deleted. Please note that status identifier of *currently amended* for claim 16 in the Amendment and Response filed March 10, 2005 is incorrect. No changes were made to the original text; therefore, the status identifier should remain as *original*.

Authorization is hereby given to charge any required fees or credit overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-0996 (IBMN.025US01), if necessary to complete this filing.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact attorney for Applicants, David W. Lynch, at 651-686-6633 Ext. 116.

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